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“ P R E S S R E L E A S E ”

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Parliamentary support grows for Alliance push to shelve Clause 3 of Parades Bill

As the Parades Bill continues through the Grand Committee stage in the House of Lords, the Alliance Leader John Alderdice has spoken about growing support for his amendments. Among his amendments is one to drop Clause 3 and consequential clauses of the Bill. Clause 3 deals with manifestations of cultural identity.

Speaking on the developments, John Alderdice said:

“Clause 3 of the Parades Bill was flawed in concept and would be damaging in practice. The Parades Commission was established for a specific purpose, and this Clause will simply serve to muddy the waters and reduce the effectiveness of the Commission. The original North Report should be implemented without dilution or qualification.

“Balance is important, but there are right and wrong ways to effectively secure such balance. I am pleased to note the growing support for our Party's efforts to have Clause 3 shelved. I have been receiving both publicly and privately enormous support for my amendments, from peers including Lords Eames, Fitt and Glentoran. I am optimistic that as our amendment gathers support the pressure will be sufficient to make Lord Dubbs accept the amendment.

For further information on the development, contact the Press Officer, Richard Good, on 0468 151972 (mobile) or 01426 245779 (pager).